

BEFORE THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO MUR 6989

We submit this letter to supplement the response to MUR 6989, filed by Mr. Sullivan. We draw your attention to the fact that the National Press Club is a membership organization and the world's leading professional organization of journalists. (Exhibit 1) Through its activities, it serves to bolster the skills of journalists, and to advocate for the media community and freedom of the press worldwide. The National Press Club prides itself as being the place "where News happens."

It was the National Press Club that invited Dr. Carson to speak on October 9, 2015 and advertised his speech to its membership. Exhibit 2, annexed hereto, demonstrates that tickets could only be purchased by club members, and could only be attended by club members and their guests. It is also worth noting that both the speech and the question and answer segment were moderated by the President of the National Press Club, John K. Hughes, who is a professional journalist and the editor of the Bloomberg First Word breaking news desk. Moreover, the speech was broadcast by C-Span as a media event with the headline "NPC Luncheon with Dr. Ben Carson, Author and Republican Presidential Candidate"; further, an earlier ad by the National Press Club, dated September 23, 2015, annexed as Exhibit 2-A, carried a headline, "Dr. Ben Carson, GOP presidential contender, to speak at Oct. 9 Club luncheon."

I have been advised by Mr. William McCarren, the Executive Director of the National Press Club, that the speech given by Dr. Carson on October 9 followed a common format for speeches made by office holders and political candidates at the National Press Club. Mr. McCarren further advised that the format has been followed for many years without ever being questioned by the Federal Elections Commission, nor made the subject of a Matter Under Review. Indeed, Mr. McCarren refused to provide an affidavit for this submission; rather he advised that he would respond to the FEC if it saw fit to question the practices of the National Press Club.

Mr. McCarren did advise that he believed every presidential candidate was invited to speak at the National Press Club, and if that candidate had a recent book published, the National Press Club would advertise both the candidate and his/her book in similar fashion to the way Dr. Carson's speech and book were featured. See, for example, Exhibits 3-A (Senator Lindsey Graham); 3-B (Governor John Kasich); 3-C (Rick Santorum); 3-D (Gary Johnson and William Weld); 3-E (Senator Bernie Sanders), 3-F (Senator Marco Rubio); and 3-G (Senator Ted Cruz).

In addition, Exhibit 4 is a page from the National Press Club website titled "Decision 2016." It states that "[t]he race for The White House has begun and candidates who agree on very little agree on one thing; The National Press Club is a MUST stop on the campaign trail." The page goes on to highlight candidates, including those who had not yet declared at the time of their appearance. Interestingly the piece ends by a call to, "schedule your next news event at the

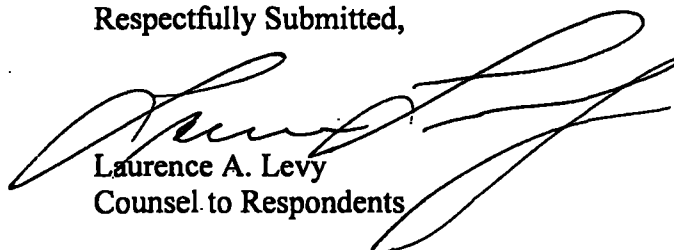
National Press Club...Where News Happens!" The webpage also referenced a prior appearance by Dr. Carson, made on May 28, 2014, with a headline, "Ben Carson Doesn't Rule Out 2016 Presidential Run," even though Dr. Carson was clearly not a candidate and specifically indicated he had taken no steps to run for President in 2016. (Exhibit 5) Further, promotional material for the 2014 event tracked with promotional material from the October 9, 2015 event, such as the May 5, 2014 announcement that "Neurosurgeon/Author/Potential Presidential Candidate Ben Carson is May 28 Luncheon Speaker." (Exhibit 2-B)

What is clear is that the National Press Club, a private membership organization of the media, invited each candidate for President to speak before their club—events that were broadcast on C-SPAN—and subsequently promoted such speeches and sold tickets to their members. Thus, it appears that Dr. Carson's promotion of his book—something else frequently promoted by the Press Club and discussed by prominent members or citizens in connection with their Press Club appearance—was incidental to its news function and/or its private membership organization function of offering a forum to presidential candidates. Moreover, as previously noted, the National Press Club arranged and controlled this event; neither the Carson campaign nor his publisher paid for the event or received any funds from the event or the Club.

Therefore, given the televised aspect of the speech on C-SPAN, the fact that the moderator was a journalist, and that all candidates were invited to speak at the National Press Club, the October 9 speech should be fully qualified as appropriate under the Press exemption explained in the prior submission. In addition, since the National Press Club is a membership organization and tickets were only sold to members—coupled with the fact that all candidates were invited to speak before the National Press Club—Dr. Carson's speech would also be permitted pursuant to 11 CFR §§114.3 and 114.4.

In conclusion, for the factual and legal reasons set forth in the original response to this MUR, as supplemented by this submission, the Commission should find that there is no reason to believe a violation has occurred and close the file.

Respectfully Submitted,



Laurence A. Levy
Counsel to Respondents

EXHIBIT 1

National Press Club

NPC www.press.org/membership/member-benefits

The National Press Club: Your Press Club

Whether you are in the profession of Journalism, Public Relations or Communications, the National Press Club provides the premier opportunity to expand your professional skills and business connections in a vibrant social environment that is unmatched anywhere in the world.

Resident Member Benefits

Career Enhancement

- Let the staff of the Eric Friedheim Library assist you with your research
- Use your NPC Directory of Membership to contact colleagues
- Get involved and meet other members via the Club's committees covering areas such as Professional Development, Communications and Marketing and Freedom of the Press
- Enhance your knowledge for less by taking classes at the National Press Club Journalism Institute; topics include Writing for the Web, Write Tight, Tracking the Air Wars: Who Buys Campaign Airtime and Get PR Smart
- Network with fellow members at Meet the Press Club held every other month in the Cosgrove Lounge at the Reliable Source

Professional Opportunities

- Attend VIP receptions and get one-on-one access to NPC Luncheon speakers
- Take advantage of complimentary seats at the Membership table for any NPC Luncheon
- Be one of the reporters on the dais for an NPC Luncheon
- Get access to the exclusive NPC Newsmakers series
- Be involved in NPC professional development activities which include the Journalism Bootcamp, Book Fair & Author's Night and monthly social media classes
- Join our Young Members Committee for its Media on Tap series headlining journalism luminaries such as Tom Brokaw and Christiane Amanpour. In addition attend Piano Lessons featuring local leaders in both journalism and communications
- Take advantage of the NPC's reciprocal agreements with 50 clubs around the country and the world — including some with overnight accommodations
- Use the Club's business center as your downtown office, wireless access available throughout the facility

Special Offers

- Join the State Department Federal Credit Union, open to all NPC members, and take advantage of their

quality financial services and competitive rates

- Purchase tickets to the NPC Luncheons at the member rate. The Club Luncheons Series is one of the most prestigious and influential news venues in the United States
- Not able to attend a luncheon? Get a free transcript or join in via streaming video, both free to NPC members
- Take advantage of deals on NPC Book and Author Events
- Benefit from special pricing on room rentals at the NPC
- Shape up with discounted health club dues at all Washington Sports Clubs
- Healthcare Plans by Affinity Group Underwriters
- Discounted consulting and training for media and communications professionals
- Discounted tickets to Blues Alley
- Complimentary evening and weekend parking for members dining at the Fourth Estate and Reliable Source restaurants
- Two complimentary guests passes each year
- Discounted tickets to local theaters and sporting events

Outstanding Social Events

- Take part in the Club's Wine Dinner series and other social events including Pub Quiz, Dinner & a Movie and themed buffets
- Join the Travel Committee on regional, national and international trips. Recent events and/or destinations have included Hershey, Pa., the Preakness in Baltimore, a tour of wineries in Virginia and theater in New York, as well as San Juan, Prague, Vienna and Northern Spain.
- Join us every morning in the Reliable Source for a complimentary breakfast buffet and each Friday evening for the free taco buffet
- Work out in the NPC Fitness Center which include free sessions with the Club's personal trainer
- Entertain at the Fourth Estate, the Club's fine dining restaurant and look for special events, including Restaurant Week

Non-Resident Member Benefits

Think there's no benefit to joining the NPC unless you're in Washington, DC? Think again!

Career Enhancement

- Network with colleagues by using the interactive, online NPC Membership Directory
- Enhance your resume with an NPC membership, which instantly sets you apart from the other candidates

Resources to help you work smarter, not harder

- Let the staff of the Eric Friedheim Library assist you with your research over the phone and via e-mail
- Submit questions for luncheon speakers in advance, via the NPC website

1-800-255-3333

NPC Luncheon with Dr. Ben Carson, Author and Republican Presidential Candidate

^{NPC} www.press.org/events/npc-luncheon-dr-ben-carson-author-and-republican-presidential-candidate



Dr. Ben Carson, one of the leading contenders for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, will discuss his new book at an Oct. 9 National Press Club luncheon.

Carson's new book, which he wrote with his wife, Candy Carson, is titled: "A More Perfect Union: What We the People Can Do to Reclaim Our Constitutional Liberties."

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., with remarks beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session ending at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$23 for Press Club members (NPC Members may purchase 2 tickets at this rate) and \$37 for all other tickets. For questions, please email reservations@press.org or call (202) 662-7501. Tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase.

Dr. Carson's new book can be pre-ordered when purchasing tickets online and will be available for purchase at the event. A book signing will immediately follow this event.

NPC Members who wish to attend the pre-luncheon reception must RSVP separately to VIPreception@press.org 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited. You must have a paid reservation to the Luncheon to attend the VIP reception.

To submit a question in advance, put CARSON in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.

NPC Members: There is a member promotion available for this event or you need to log in to register. [Click here to log in and get the code.](#)

1-800-4-A-DEPT

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Dr. Ben Carson, GOP presidential contender, to speak at Oct. 9 Club luncheon

September 23, 2015 | By Pat Host | patrick.host@gmail.com

7

Dr. Ben Carson, one of the leading contenders for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination, will discuss his new book at an Oct. 9 National Press Club luncheon.

Carson's new book, which he wrote with his wife, Candy Carson, is titled: "A More Perfect Union: What We the People Can Do to Reclaim Our Constitutional Liberties."

Tickets for this event are limited to Club members and their guests only.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., with remarks beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session ending at 2 p.m.

Tickets cost \$23 for Club members, who may purchase two tickets at this rate, and \$37 for all other non-member tickets. Tickets may be [purchased online](#). For questions, please email reservations@press.org or call (202) 662-7501. Tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase.

Copies of Dr. Carson's book will be available for purchase. A book signing will follow this event. No outside books or paraphernalia permitted.

Club Members who wish to attend the pre-luncheon reception must RSVP separately to VIPreception@press.org 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited. You must have a paid reservation to the luncheon to attend the VIP reception

To submit a question in advance, put CARSON in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.

Upcoming Luncheons:

September 28: Jane Chu, Chair, National Endowment for the Arts (breakfast)
Sept. 30: Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education
Oct. 1: Raimonds Vejonis, President of Latvia
Oct. 2: Gary R. Herbert, Governor of Utah
Oct. 7: Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore



Dr. Ben Carson will speak at an Oct. 9 National Press Club luncheon.

Photo/Image: Christy Bowe

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EXHIBIT 2-B

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Neurosurgeon/author/potential presidential candidate Ben Carson is May 28 luncheon speaker

May 5, 2014 | By Doris Magolis | dorismagolis@editorialassociates.com

0

Benjamin Carson, M.D., prolific writer and former director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital, will focus on the principles addressed in his new book, "One Nation: What We Can All Do to Save America's Future," at a National Press Club luncheon on May 28.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing immediately following the luncheon.

A recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Dr. Carson is internationally known for his pioneering neurosurgical skills. He is also widely known for his conservative views on social issues and the federal government, and is being pushed by many conservative backers to run for president.

The luncheon begins at 12:30 p.m. Remarks begin promptly at 1:00 p.m., followed by a question and answer session. The luncheon ends at 2 p.m. Tickets, which can be purchased online, cost \$22 for NPC members and \$36 for non-members. Club members may buy two tickets at the member price. Tickets must be paid for at time of purchase.

For questions regarding reservations, email reservations@press.org or call 202-662-7501.

NPC members interested in attending the pre-luncheon reception must have a paid reservation for the luncheon and RSVP separately to vipreception@press.org no later than 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited.

To submit a question for the speaker in advance of the luncheon, email your question to president@press.org with CARSON in the subject line before 10 a.m. May 28.

Upcoming Luncheons:

May 13 - Sen. Marco Rubio
May 27 - Donald Trump (sold out)



Benjamin S. Carson, M.D.

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Sen. Lindsey Graham, GOP presidential candidate, to speak at Sept. 8 NPC luncheon

August 28, 2015 | By Jerry Zremski | jzremski@buffnews.com

2

Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a candidate for the Republican presidential nomination, will speak at a National Press Club luncheon on Tuesday, Sept. 8, about why he thinks the Iran nuclear deal is bad for the U.S. and why the next president can and must negotiate a better one.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., with remarks beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session ending at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$23 for Press Club members (members may purchase 2 tickets at this rate) and \$37 for non-members. Tickets may be purchased [online](#).

Graham, who is serving his third term in the Senate, is one of his party's leading voices on defense issues and foreign policy. He is also one of the few GOP presidential candidates to consistently criticize Donald Trump for his controversial statements during the current campaign.

For questions, please email reservations@press.org or call (202) 662 – 7501. Tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase.

NPC members who wish to attend the pre-luncheon reception must RSVP separately to VIPreception@press.org 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited. You must have a paid reservation to the Luncheon to attend the VIP reception.

To submit a question in advance, put GRAHAM in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.

Upcoming events:

Sept. 2: Nikki Haley, governor of South Carolina
Sept. 14: Mark Kelly and Terry Virts, NASA astronauts (breakfast)
Sept. 21: Bob Bowersby, commissioner of the Big 12 conference
Sept. 28: Jane Chu, chairman, National Endowment for the Arts (breakfast)
Sept. 30: Arne Duncan, secretary of education
Oct. 2: Gary Herbert, governor of Utah and chairman of the National Governors Association
Dec. 2: Deborah Lee James, secretary of the Air Force



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Ohio Gov. John Kasich to outline national security strategy, noon Nov. 17

November 16, 2015 | By Mark Schoeff Jr. | markschoeff@gmail.com

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Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican presidential candidate, will outline a national security strategy that involves rebuilding the U.S. military, "reinvigorating" diplomatic alliances and renewing a commitment to "fundamental Western values" in a speech at the National Press Club at noon on Tuesday, Nov. 17.

The event, sponsored by the Club's Speakers Committee, is slated to follow the format of a Club luncheon, but lunch will not be served. Held in the First Amendment Lounge, the speech will begin promptly at noon. Kasich's remarks will be followed by a question-and-answer session, and the event will conclude at 1 p.m.

Kasich will appear at the Club, as presidential candidates are responding to the Nov. 13 terrorist attacks in Paris. Re-elected to a second term as Ohio governor last year, Kasich is a former chairman of the House Budget Committee and a former member of the House Armed Services Committee.

To submit a question in advance, put KASICH in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on Nov. 17.



Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a Republican presidential candidate, will outline his national security strategy at a National Press Club Speakers news conference at noon Tuesday, Nov. 17.

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Santorum to speak at National Press Club Thursday, 11 a.m.

August 17, 2015 | By Jonathan Salant— | jsalant@advancemedia.com

4

Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum will speak at a National Press Club event sponsored by the NPC Speakers Committee on Thursday, Aug. 20.

The event will begin at 11 a.m.

Santorum a former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, is one of 17 Republicans seeking their party's 2016 nomination.

The format for Santorum's appearance will be that of a Club luncheon, in which he will have an hour to speak and field questions asked by Club President John Hughes from cards submitted by the audience. But there will be no lunch served and no members' reception.

The event is open to Club members and all credentialed journalists. Admission is free but reservations are requested by clicking [here](#).

To submit a question in advance, put **SANTORUM** in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 8 a.m. on the day of the event.



Rick Santorum will speak at a National Press Club event on Thursday, Aug. 20.

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[Speakers](#)[For Clients](#)[Membership](#)[Multimedia](#)[Events](#)**NPC Luncheon with Libertarian Presidential Ticket Johnson & Weld**

July 7, 2016 12:30 PM

Speakers NPC  [Google Calendar](#)

Location: Holeman Lounge

This is a ticketed event. [Click here](#) to jump to the ticket form.

The Libertarian Party presidential ticket – former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson and former Massachusetts Gov. William Weld – will outline why they think a third-party effort may be more likely to succeed this year than in past elections at a July 7 National Press Club luncheon.

Johnson and Weld were nominated at the Libertarian convention in late May and are promoting an agenda of fiscal conservatism and social liberalism.

Voter discontent with the two presumptive major party choices – Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump – gives them a chance to break through, they will argue.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., with remarks beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a Q&A session ending at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$24 for National Press Club members (NPC Members may purchase 2 tickets at this rate), and \$38 for non-members. For questions, please email reservations@press.org or call 202-662-7501. Tickets must be paid for at time of purchase.

Club members who wish to attend the pre-luncheon reception must RSVP separately to vipreception@press.org 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited. You must have a paid reservation to the luncheon to attend the VIP reception.

To submit a question for our speaker in advance, put JOHNSON in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT, CONTACT:

Lindsay Underwood
(202) 662-7561
lunderwood@press.org

NPC Members: There is a member promotion available for this event or you need to log in to register. [Click here to log in](#) and get the code.



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NPC Luncheon with Senator Bernie Sanders, Vermont

March 9, 2015 12:30 PM

Speakers NPC  [Google Calendar](#)

Location: Ballroom

This is a ticketed event. [Click here](#) to jump to the ticket form.

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, a possible presidential candidate, will speak at a National Press Club luncheon on Monday, March 9. Sanders, an independent who caucuses with Democrats, is considering running for the 2016 Democratic nomination as a liberal alternative to Hillary Clinton, focusing on income inequality and climate change.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., with remarks beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session ending at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$23 for Press Club members (NPC Members may purchase 2 tickets at this rate) and \$37 for all other non-member tickets. For questions, please email reservations@press.org or call (202) 662 - 7501. Tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase.

NPC Members who wish to attend the pre-luncheon reception must RSVP separately to VIPreception@press.org 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited. You must have a paid reservation to the Luncheon to attend the VIP reception

To submit a question in advance, put SANDERS in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.

The luncheon will be hosted at The Press Club, located on the 13th floor, 529 14th Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT, CONTACT:

Kasia Klimasinska
k.klimasinska@gmail.com

NPC Members: There is a member promotion available for this event or you need to log in to register. [Click here to log in](#) and get the code.

\$5.90

\$19.90

EXHIBIT 3-F

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Sen. Marco Rubio to speak at May 13 luncheon

May 3, 2014 | By Matt Mlynarczyk | matt@advocatusgroup.com

1

Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican who's considered a potential contender for the party's 2016 presidential nomination, will deliver a major policy address at a National Press Club luncheon on Tuesday, May 13.

Rubio will discuss retirement security in the 21st century.

A Cuban-American native of Miami, Rubio won election to the Senate in 2010 after serving as speaker of the Florida House of Representatives. Since then he has become a leading conservative voice on fiscal and foreign policy issues while helping craft the compromise immigration bill that passed the Senate last year.

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m., with remarks beginning at 1 p.m., followed by a question-and-answer session ending at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$22 for National Press Club members (NPC Members may purchase two tickets at this rate) and \$36 for non-members.

Tickets may be purchased online by clicking [here](#).

For questions, please email reservations@press.org or call (202)662-7501. Tickets must be paid for at the time of purchase.

NPC Members who wish to attend the pre-luncheon reception must RSVP separately to VIPreception@press.org no later than 48 hours before the event. Space may be limited. You must have a paid reservation to the luncheon to attend the VIP reception

To submit a question in advance, put RUBIO in the subject line and email to president@press.org before 10 a.m. on the day of the luncheon.



Senator Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

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EXHIBIT 3-G

Q&A: Senator Ted Cruz and USHCC

NPC press.org/events/qa-senator-ted-cruz-and-ushcc

Q&A Session: Senator Ted Cruz and US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

WHO:

Ted Cruz, United States Senator, Presidential Candidate

Javier Palomarez, President & CEO, USHCC

WHAT: In the first of a series of planned sessions with 2016 presidential Candidates, Senator Ted Cruz has agreed to sit down with Javier Palomarez, President & CEO of the US Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC), to discuss his candidacy, and how he will address issues that are crucial to America's 3.2 million Hispanic businesses,

WHEN: 3:30-4:30pm Wednesday, April 29th, 2015

RSVP here: <http://goo.gl/forms/KueaMsEmCn>

WHERE: National Press Club (Holeman Room)

WHY: This event comes on the heels of a few stories about presidential hopefuls missing out on the opportunity to engage USHCC members – conservative Hispanic business owners, voters, taxpayers, and campaign funders -- at the association's Legislative Summit a few weeks ago.

This Q&A session is meant to give all candidates the opportunity set the record straight on their views on issues that concern Hispanic Americans, including social issues, immigration, jobs & the economy, healthcare, national security and terrorism, federal budget spending.

For More Information On This Event, Contact:

Ammar Najjar

619-721-5148

anajjar@ushcc.com

EXHIBIT 4

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DECISION 2016

The race for The White House has begun and candidates who agree on very little agree on one thing: The National Press Club is a **MUST** stop on the campaign trail.

The Wall Street Journal called former Gov. Rick Perry's (R-TX) July 2015 address at the Press Club "the speech of the campaign so far." Bernie Sanders' campaign was kick-started by an appearance at the Press Club earlier this year. Marco Rubio made big news here, as did Jim Webb. A surgeon (Ben Carson), a business tycoon (Donald Trump) and a tech executive (Carly Fiorina) have also spoken from the legendary National Press Club podium as they have tested the waters, their remarks and Q&A sessions transmitted live through traditional and new media channels to a global audience through the NPC's broadcast operations center.

This is just the beginning. More are already scheduled, and we expect you will see all the candidates appear at the National Press Club before the 2016 election. Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and several other Presidents announced their candidacies here. Candidates who visit the Press Club follow in the footsteps of history. Stay tuned.

If you are looking for a powerful platform to reach the same key influencers as the candidates around 2016 election issues, **contact us** to schedule your next news event at the National Press Club...Where News Happens!



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EXHIBIT 5

Ben Carson Doesn't Rule Out 2016 Presidential Run

NPC press.org/news-multimedia/news/ben-carson-doesnt-rule-out-2016-presidential-run

Dr. Ben Carson at Wednesday's Luncheon

Photo/Image: Christy Bowe

Related Video

NPC Luncheon with Dr. Ben Carson

Conservative activist Dr. Ben Carson said he has "taken no steps" to run for president in 2016, though "perhaps God has a different plan for me."

"I've got to tell you, I do not wish that job upon anybody—including myself," he said at a May 28 Club luncheon.

But he refused to rule it out. "Perhaps God has a different plan for me," he said.

God figured prominently elsewhere in Carson's speech as well.

"I think the reason this nation rose to the pinnacle, faster than any in the history of the world is because we live by godly principles, of loving your fellow man, caring about your neighbor, developing your God-given talents to the utmost so you become valuable to the people around you," he said. "Of having values and principles that govern your life. If we can regain that, then we truly will have one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

He said his mother raised two young boys by herself, and it was through concerted self-reliance that she was able to pull through.

"She worked so hard because she didn't want to be on welfare," he said. "She felt she needed to be an independent soul."

Carson embraced the Republican call for eliminating President Barack Obama's health-care law, which is designed to provide insurance to millions of uninsured Americans. Instead, he proposed health savings accounts, whose balance could be shared among family members.

That would subject health care to the rigors of the market, rather than wasteful "layers and layers of bureaucrats," while still retaining some state support for health, Carson said.

He also called for cutting taxes on corporations to take "the heavy foot of government off the neck of industry and business."

